

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 /063 W

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R 071351Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9962

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

BUDAPEST 2256

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET PROGAGANDA CAMPAIGN ON WW II

REF: MOSCOW 6078

1. THE VOLUME OF SOVIET PROPAGANDA ABOUT THE 30TH
ANNIVERSARY OF V-E DAY HAS REACHED THE SUFFOCATION LEVEL
IN MOSCOW, BUT RELIEF IS COMING SOON WHEN CAMPAIGN PEAKS
ON MAY 9. SEVERAL SOVIET GOALS ARE SERVED BY THE
CAMPAIGN: CPSU IS PORTRAYED AS THE ORGANIZER OF
VICTORY WHICH RANKS SECOND ONLY TO OCTOBER REVOLUTION;
IDEOLOGY IS CREDITED WITH FORGING SOVIET WARTIME UNITY;
WARTIME VICTORY IS PORTRAYED AS TRIUMPH OF SOCIALISM
OVER IMPERIALISM AND ITS MAIN STRIKE FORCE -- FASCISM;
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HUGE SOVIET LOSSES ARE FLAUNTED AS JUSTIFICATION FOR

EVERYTHING RANGING FROM RELIEF FROM WARTIME DEBTS TO DEMANDING THAT SOVIET YOUTH HEED ELDERS' STRICTURES. FURTHERMORE, WARTIME COMMANDERS ARE USING OCCASION TO JUSTIFY NOT ONLY THEIR ROLES BUT ALSO STALIN'S WARTIME LEADERSHIP. MILITARY-PATRITIC PROPAGANDA HAS GLORIFIED SOVIET ARMED FORCES AND BEEN DRUMMED INTO EYES AND EARS OF ALL, ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE, WITH OVERTONES OF GREAT RUSSIAN NATIONALISM.

2. MOST INTERESTING RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IS EMPHASIS ON CAUCASIAN CAMPAIGN AND NOVOROSIYSK BATTLES WHICH ARE VEHICLES FOR GLORIFICATION OF BREZHNEV'S WAR RECORD. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN BREZHNEV HISTORIOGRAPHY ARE GIVEN IN RED STAR ARTICLES ON MAY 5 AND 7.

LT. GEN. P. ZHILIN'S REVIEW OF NEW DOCUMENTARY FILM "IN MEMORY FOREVER" MAKES POINT THAT HISTORIOGRAPHERS SHOULD PICK UP UNDERDEVELOPED THEME OF CAUCASIAN CAMPAIGN AND NOVOROSIYSK BATTLE WHICH ARE SUBJECTS OF DOCUMENTARY. FILM WAS SHOWN ON PRIME TIME TV MAY 6. RED STAR ARTICLE OF MAY BY COL. V. ZMITRENKO REVIEWS A RECENT BOOK BY N.V. KOLESOV ENTITLED "FOREVER IN MEMORY AND IN THE HEART -- REPORTAGE OF NOVOROSIYSK." BREZHNEV'S ROLE IS SPELLED OUT IN THE REIEW, AND A WARTIME PHOTO IS SHOWN ON THE SAME PAGE FEATURING BREZHNEV ADDRESSING FRONTLINE TROOPS ON SOUTHWEST FRONT. THIS PHOTO COMPLEMENTS HEROIC PAINTING BY R. NALBANDYAN OF BREZHNEV ADDRESSING THE TROOPS (REFTEL). OFFICIAL NOTICE OF BREZHNEV'S LATEST MILITARY PROMOTION TO RANK OF ARMY GENERAL HAS NOT APPEARED ANYWHERE YET EXCEPT FOR GRECHKO'S SPEECH OF APRIL 17, WHICH IS A DEPARTURE FROM SOVIET MILITARY CUSTOM OF REPORTING PROMOTIONS ON THAT LEVEL.

3. A SIDELIGHT ON EXPLOITATION OF MILITARY TRAINING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN FOR MILITARY PATRIOTIC PROPAGANDA PURPOSES WAS GIVEN BY LOCAL AZERBAYDZHAN YOUTH NEWSPAPER MOLODZH' AZERBAYDZHANA IN APRIL 26 ISSUE. SCHOOL CHILDREN IN GRADES 5-8 WHOSE SCHOOL MILITARY UNITS WIN COMBAT INFANTRY EXERCISES IN "ZARNITSA-8" COMPETITIONS WILL BE ALLOWED TO MARCH IN MAY 9 PARADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN BAKU. WE HAVE HEARD THAT MASS DEMONSTRATIONS BY YOUTH WIL BE A FEATURE OF MAY 9 RED SQUARE PARADE IN MOSCOW, BUT KNOW NOTHING ABOUT POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION BY "YOUTH ARMY" UNITS.

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